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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

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"Conform and be dull" – J. Frank Dobie

Out Front on Affordability

With budget dollars shrinking and tuition costs rising, the issue of affordability at public colleges and universities will take center stage (along with the budget) at the June 4 meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Dan Layzell, deputy director for planning and technology for the IBHE, will discuss findings from relevant national and state studies on affordability and outline the next steps for addressing affordability related issues. Governors State is ahead of the curve in this area. A national study by the Lumina Foundation this year rated GSU the most accessible university in the region in terms of affordability. The IBHE will also tackle other troubling issues on the higher education front, including increasing campus diversity. Dr. Stuart Fagan will represent Governors State.

What's on the Horizon?

On Thursday, June 6, Dr. Fagan will meet with the University community to report on the IBHE meeting and to discuss the impact of the state's fiscal crisis on Governors State at 3 p.m. in the Sherman Music Recital Hall. He will outline plans to increase revenues and answer all questions.

LCM Is In

The Capital Development Board has selected Chicago-based LCM Architects to implement the third phase of the university's \$38 million capital development project. (Construction of the Family Development Center and the Faculty Office Center are Phases I and II, respectively.) LCM will program, design and manage the construction/renovation of Phase III which has three components. First, renovation of the science lab. Second, renovation of the E&F wing, and third, the rehabbing or reprogramming of space that will be vacated when faculty and other related staff move to the new Faculty Office Center. On Tuesday, June 4, the architects will meet with members of the CDB, GSU administrators and physical plant staff to fine-tune the terms of the project contract.

Having Our Say

“Getting input from everyone will be essential to the success of the capital planning program,” said John Tuohy, vice president of planning and administration. “We will solicit ideas from every area of the university – faculty, students, and people working for PPO.” Surveys will be conducted, and a series of university-wide focus groups will be held to gather information and opinions for a needs assessment. The assessment will serve as the blueprint to develop a comprehensive facilities master plan.

Celebrating Character and Commitment

Human Resources recognized the accomplishments of 90 GSU staff and faculty members at its annual Service Awards program held on May 23. One of the high points of the celebration was a power-point presentation entitled, “Take a Look at Us Now.” Expertly produced by Loretta Jones from HR, the presentation captured GSU’s tremendous growth over more than three decades. Those pioneers recognized for 30 years of service are Ron Brubaker, (retired professor from CAS), Lowell Culver (retired professor from CBPA), and Professors Thomas Kelly (CAS), Michael Lewis (CE), Mel Muchnik (CAS), and Anthony Wei (CAS).

A Matter of Race

I’m Brown and My Sister Isn’t, a children’s book written by Professor Robbie O’Shea (CHP), is being reviewed by *Chicago Parent* magazine. About her first work of fiction, O’Shea said: “I wanted to give transracially adopted children more positive images of themselves.” The book is available at the GSU bookstore as well as general bookstores such as Borders and Andersons.

Gracias

Saludo Hispanos recently awarded Dr. Fagan their Publishers Salute to Educators of Distinction Award for the university’s commitment to diversity.

On the Record

On Thursday, June 13, at noon the Center for Performing Arts will hold its annual Press Conference Luncheon to announce the new season to the media.